**Distinguishing between organic substances (Level 3) examiners tips: Read these please!**

• this is a logical problem solving question

• common questions are distinguishing...

…aldehydes from ketones *and for Excellence be able to justify the "Tollens" reagent test with equations*  
 …amines from amides

• when distinguishing between substances write down the reaction for BOTH not just the one (including there is no reaction)  
• a classic student error... not mentioning damp, yes DAMP litmus

• always state both initial and final colours

• either KMnO4 or MnO4-

• either K2Cr2O7 or Cr2O72-

• be aware the both KMnO4 and K2Cr2O7 are aqueous solutions so they contain water  
• be sure to familiarise yourself with all of these tests  
• in particular, know how to distinguish between aldehydes and ketones, a FREQUENTLY ASKED question

**don’t be daft!**

we’ll say it again… DAMP litmus

the litmus paper must be DAMP....DAMP... DAMP!!!"

carbon dioxide is produced" is NOT an OBSERVATION, "bubbles of gas" are produced IS

RTQ2 - read the question TWICE

use only REAGENTS suggested to you in the question

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